

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06773 311651Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /036 W

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R 311529Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

COMUSFORAZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 6773

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: NEW STRIKE LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE

REF: LISBON A-248

1. NEW STRIKE LAW, APPROVED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SIGNED BY PRESIDENT, BECOMES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31. LAW SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS DECREE LAW OF AUGUST, 1974, WHICH NOTABLE MAINLY FOR BEING UNIVERSALLY IGNORED AND TOTALLY DISCREDITED DURING PERIODS OF LABOR STRIFE IN LATE 1974 AND 1975.

2. NEW LAW HAS SEVERAL PROVISIONS WHICH SHOULD DO MUCH TO RESTORE ORDER TO LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS:

-- MANAGEMENT IS SPECIFICALLY EXPEMPTED FROM PAYING WAGES TO STRIKING WORKERS.

-- UNIONS MUST GIVE 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE OF A STRIKE.

IN CASE OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES, 5 DAYS NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN. STRIKERS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CIVIL "MOBILIZATION" IF THEY FAIL TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM LEVEL OF SERVICES DURING STRIKE.

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-- FAILURE TO OBSERVE LAW MEANS STRIKERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED AS "UNJUSTIFIED ABSENTEES."

-- NON-STRIKING WORKERS MUST HAVE THEIR RIGHTS RESPECTED.

-- RIGHT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO STRIKE IS RECOGNIZED BUT WILL BE REGULATED BY A SEPARATE LAW.

3. TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT OF LAW POUCHED BY REPAIR.

4. COMMENT: LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND DISCIPLINE HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST MONTHS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A DANGER THAT THE PCP MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WORKER DISCONTENT OVER ECONOMIC AUSTERITY MEASURES AND PROVOKE LABOR AGITATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOVERY PLANS. THE NEW STRIKE LAW WILL GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A USEFUL TOOL TO USE AGAINST SUCH AGITATION. SPECIFICALLY, THE LAW MAKES IT EXPLICIT THAT WORKERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO RECEIVE WAGES FOR THE PERIODS THEY ARE OUT ON STRIKE. PREVIOUS STRIKE SETTLEMENTS FREQUENTLY INCLUDED PAYMENTS FOR SUCH "LOST TIME." THE LAW ALSO HAS MUSCLE IN THAT WORKERS WHO STRIKE WITHOUT FOLLOWING THE LEGAL PROCEDURES, SUCH AS ADVANCE NOTICE, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE "UNJUSTIFIED ABSENTEES." TEN UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCES DURING A YEAR OR FIVE CONSECUTIVE SUCH ABSENCES, MAKE A WORKER LIABLE FOR DISMISSAL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009